

HEIRS OF NEIL MCENENY.

JUNE 9, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. COLSON, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 8623.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred House bill No. 8623, respectfully report:

Neil McEneny, an inhabitant and citizen of Johnstown, Pa., purchased through the First National Bank of Johnstown, Pa., a \$500 4 per cent United States bond, and had the same in his possession and control prior to the flood of May 31, 1889, which destroyed that city. In the flood Neil McEneny, his wife, and seven children were drowned and his house and contents swept away and destroyed. The bond was among the valuables lost. Some time after the flood six coupons of a 4 per cent United States bond were found in the wash of the flood, similar to the bond owned by Mr. McEneny. Coupons were from bond 1805, maturing in 1907, and were due July 1, 1891, July 1, 1893, July 1, 1895, July 1, 1901, January 1, 1907, and April 1, 1907. These coupons were turned over to the flood finance committee of Johnstown, and were sent by that committee to the United States Treasurer under date of February 11, 1896.

The last coupon paid of bond 1805, as shown by the records of the Treasury Department, was dated July 1, 1888. A reward was offered by the heirs of Neil McEneny for the recovery of that bond, but they received no reply to their advertisement. They, however, believe that the coupons found in the wash of the flood were from their bond, as so far as they can learn no one else has ever made claim for a lost bond in the flood of 1889 other than themselves, and no one has presented to the United States Treasury any coupon of bond 1805 for payment since the coupon of July, 1888, was paid.

There is no doubt but that Neil McEneny owned a United States 4 per cent \$500-coupon bond, and from all the evidence submitted your committee believe that bond 1805 was that bond, and that the fact that no one has made any claim for the same or any coupons of said bond, is some proof of the claim of the McEneny heirs that the bond from which the six coupons were found was theirs, and that they should have a duplicate issued to them for the same. The Treasury Department did not feel authorized to issue a duplicate, and referred the matter to Congress.

Upon a proper bond of indemnity being given to the Government, your committee are of the opinion that the relief desired should be granted and recommend that the bill do pass.